

Issued
Each Week

FARM AND DAIRY

&

RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00
a Year

Vol. XXXII.

FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 9, 1913.

No. 2

SOME FACTORS THAT MAKE FOR SUCCESS IN LIVE STOCK BREEDING

By Professor W. J. Kennedy

A Former Canadian, now one of the greatest Live Stock Authorities in the United States, discusses the Failures and Success of Live Stock Men and states some Principles that, if Closely Followed, will lead the Breeder to Permanent Success.

FOR over 20 years I have studied carefully the methods pursued by breeders of live stock, both the successful and the unsuccessful. The former are comparatively few in number compared with the latter. I have had the opportunity of observing the methods pursued on the best farms in the United States, Canada, and eleven different European countries.

In no other line of work is a well-defined purpose so necessary as in the successful breeding of live stock. Each and every one of our present day breeds of live stock was brought up to its very highest degree of excellence by the sheer determination to carry out a well-defined purpose on the part of some two or three men. It is true that hundreds and thousands of men were breeding, but only two or three in each instance, really succeeded. Why did the others fail? Simply because they were like the man walking slowly along the public highway, and when stopped by a stranger who asked him, "Where are you going?" and his reply was, "I don't know, but I'm on my way." It is just so with a great many breeders of stock; they don't know where they are going, but they are on the way, too often on the road to failure.

THE RED ROCK OF PROGRESS—UTILITY

No man ever has succeeded and no man ever will succeed for any length of time in breeding live stock who does not have as his slogan that one word—Utility. Almost a century ago, Amos Cruickshank, "the herdsman of Aberdeenshire," said that "the real test of value in beef cattle is their ability to turn straw, turnips, and cake into pounds, shillings and pence at a profit." When ridiculed by his fellow breeders because he overlooked fashionable pedigrees and color markings, he replied that the only question in his mind was, "what is best for our country, our agriculture, and our people." It would be a God-send to our live stock interests if we had to-day a thousand Amos Cruickshanks. The useful animal has always been a moneymaker, and will continue to be so in the future.

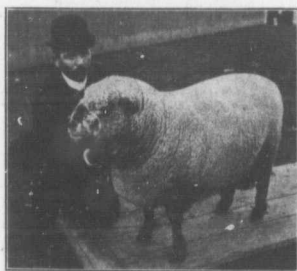
No man ever has succeeded and no man ever will succeed for any length of time in breeding live stock who attaches his kite to "faddism." We do not need to mention any one particular individual to demonstrate the folly of such work. There is hardly a county, in any live stock section of this country or any other country, which has not anywhere from one to 20 men, who have clearly demonstrated that "faddism" is always a forerunner of failure. By "faddism" I refer to the tendency on the part of many men to disregard the really useful features on an animal and go to the extreme on certain blood lines, color markings, shape of ear, head, etc.

I do not wish to be understood as being opposed to beauty of form, color, or general ap-

pearance. I am not. In fact, I always like to see the same when combined with the utility points. But if I had to sacrifice something in selecting a breeding animal it would be the fancy points and not those which indicate utility.

STRIVE FOR A GOOD MIDDLE

The longer I study and handle live stock the more I am convinced that the first and most important point to be observed in all meat and milk producing animals is a good middle. The signs of constitution and digestive capacity present their most visible manifestations in the



A Splendid Type of Mutton Sheep

This imported Shropshire ram, owned by J. Lloyd Jones, Brant Co., Ont., is of almost ideal mutton conformation. Notice the low down, blocky type of this ram. As mutton is more profitable than wool, it is well to use breeding stock that, like this ram, will get lambs that will dress a first-class market carcass.

body and not in the extremities. The animal is simply a machine to convert feed into more edible products such as meat and milk. Its capacity is governed almost solely by the size of the middle. These are points which mean dollars and cents to every man who handles live stock.

We must pay more attention to the question of size and vigor in our animals. Size always has and always will be a vital point. It is usually associated with heavy and economical gains. Vigor is absolutely essential. It is associated with heavy gains and also helps to safeguard the animal in time of disease outbreaks. One of the chief causes for deterioration in both size and vigor of our animals is the use of immature sires and dams for breeding purposes. While both sire and dam exert an influence, it has been clearly proven that the mature dam is the most detrimental to progeny.

THE CURSE OF IMMATURE SIRS

The continued use of immature sires and dams, especially where corn rations are fed, will seriously reduce both the size and vigor of any

breed or class of live stock. Anything which lessens the size and vigor of the animal renders it less profitable on high priced land. Too much attention cannot be given to the importance of selecting breeding stock from mature parents. In this way, and only in this way, can we retain size and vigor in our herds and flocks.

In conclusion I wish to once more emphasize the importance of utility in all classes of stock. Beware of "faddism" in any of its various forms. Demand masculinity in the sires and femininity in the dams. Also remember that the best results can only be obtained where careful selection is combined with intelligent mating and the proper feeding and management of the animals.

Azoturea of Horses

By Dr. H. P. Hopkins

A disease of horses that should be guarded against, especially at this time of the year, is azoturia, sometimes called "Monday morning" paralysis, or lumbago. This disease usually follows periods of rest or idleness, especially in cold weather, when horses have been kept on full feed. Horses in good flesh, in the pink of condition, are the ones usually affected. Just as milk fever picks out the best cows in the herd, azoturia seems to strike the best horses in the stable.

The symptoms of the disease come on after the horse has left the stable, sometimes before a mile has been travelled. The first thing usually noticed is that the horse limps or favors one hind limb, frequently knuckling over at the fetlock. This rapidly gets worse if the animal is kept going. Perspiration breaks out over the surface of the body. If not brought to a standstill, the horse will travel till the hind limbs become paralyzed and collapse. If stopped when the first symptoms are shown, the horse will bear all of the weight on the unaffected limb, unless both are affected. He is very restless and uneasy. The sweating is profuse, and may run off the body in streams, even in very cold weather.

FURTHER PLAIN SYMPTOMS

The muscles of the crop on the affected side appear very hard and tense, and the skin seems as firm as sole leather. Urine, if passed, is very dark in color, varying from a reddish-brown to a brownish-black. It frequently has the appearance of coffee, and is often quite thick. If both hind legs are affected, the horse usually goes down and makes frequent ineffectual efforts to regain his feet. The breathing is usually labored, the pulse quickened, and the temperature may run high or stay at normal.

The proper thing to do under the above conditions is to stop the horse just as soon as anything is noticed wrong. Stop right in the road if necessary and blanket the horse over the hind quarters. Do not try to return home or to reach a neighboring stable, unless the latter is within a few yards. More horses are killed by trying to keep them going than in any other way. The disease progresses very rapidly if the horse is kept going, and few horses recover if they go